



WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Vision without view, sound without music Olympia City Hall moves to Bellevue

by WIP News Service

Written into the Feb. 11 Minutes of the Olympia Land Use and Environment Committee is a disturbing statement: “We already have the vision for downtown. To appeal to the public, we need to move from strategy to tactics.”

Present at this meeting were Councilmembers Karen Messmer, Rhenda Iris Strub, and Joan Machlis, as well as City staff and assorted guests, including former councilmember and Triway Enterprise employee Jeannette Hawkins, and Russ Meixner of Rocky Mountain Development, a big contributor to several councilmembers’ campaign funds (see graphic).

Judging from the work being done by the new City Council, in place since January, it would appear their vision looks a lot like Bellevue. The City is spending municipal funds to promote the interests of developers who intend to construct high-end housing downtown, while withdrawing funding from the Tenants Union—so perhaps in their vision, downtown is populated only by the propertied class. Judging from the Council’s willingness to ease the way for a re-zone of the isthmus between Capital Lake and Budd Bay, views of the Sound and Olympic Mountains are not part of the vision; the proposal for the isthmus would allow high-rise mixed use structures that would destroy views protected by the existing zoning for decades.

This is a vision without much sound: The City is eager to pass a noise ordinance that will decimate the downtown music scene, so that future residents of the area will be able to enjoy their fancy condos in peace and quiet... almost as if they’re in the suburbs. Many local musicians who play—in essence, work—in downtown Olympia, feel that the City Council has declared war on downtown’s culture with this ordinance.

No sidewalk conversations after 10

The noise ordinance on the City’s agenda has debilitating potential for Olympia’s downtown music scene, already weakened by the city’s closing of the popular all-ages venue, Manium. This proposed ordinance for the downtown area hasn’t arisen be-

cause of significant noise issues downtown. It seems more likely that it is because noise ordinances are becoming trendy. Seattle will enact a new noise ordinance as of June 1, and Tacoma’s City Council unanimously passed a noise ordinance on Feb. 19. The Tacoma ordinance exempts certain construction noise but fails to extend similar consideration to working musicians.

Initiated by Councilmember Jeff Kingsbury, Olympia is scrambling to follow suit, with an ordinance which would restrict sound from a commercial source (like a music venue) after 10 pm to 60 decibels. 60 decibels is commonly cited as the sound level of “normal conversation,” and is just 25% higher than the humming of the average refrigerator at 40 decibels.

Decibel levels may be measured at the property line of the complainant, which means the sound insulation provided by walls might not be taken into account.

If anyone ever organizes a musical festival at the Capitol Theater again, and someone in the Martin Apartments a block away complains about noise, decibel level could be measured at the corner of the building. If the decibels are measured at the property line, outside, the noise of a crowd of smokers hanging out a half a block away will almost certainly measure above 60 decibels. As written, any business with con-

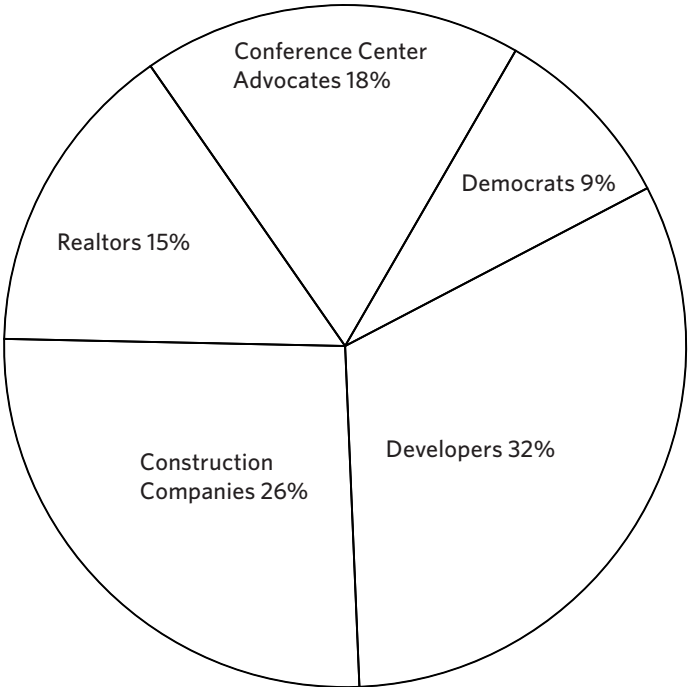
What exactly is this vision for downtown that is going to require “tactics” to “appeal to the public”?

gregations of smokers gathered outside its doors could be in violation of the ordinance during most of its hours of operation.

Ross Cowman, a local musician with the band June Madrona, commented that “Any ordinance the city makes should reflect the realities of Olympia’s downtown life. The current ordinance is cut and pasted together from other Washington cities that are very different from ours.”

Olympia’s thriving music scene has long been a magnet for independent musicians, and the hipster fans they attract.

Despite all the efforts of the Olympia Downtown Association to revitalize the



Who loves Olympia best? The Top 10 donors to the City Council, categorized

downtown shopping district that was vitated by the arrival of the Westfield Shopping Mall in 1978, a strong argument can be made that it was downtown’s low rents and all-ages venues that attracted residents and eventually made it a center for independent music in the 1990s, and a thriving residential and commercial district today (see Tobi Vail’s letter to the City Council, page 4, which describes how downtown Olympia’s environment has provided opportunities for many working musicians). Given its thriving music scene is such an important aspect of Oly’s cultural heritage, it is reasonable to expect the ordinance be drafted to preserve the rights of working musicians to make a living, and of venue owners to keep their doors open.

Pit Kwiecinski, owner of the downtown bar and music venue The Brotherhood Lounge, opposes the proposed ordinance. “The law is completely reasonable in a residential neighborhood, but not in a commercial neighborhood like downtown Olympia. Whether or not you want to encourage housing downtown, you can’t really expect to change the nature of downtown

to accommodate housing. Why do people want to live downtown, anyway, if not to enjoy the cultural milieu?”

After attending a planning commission meeting on April 7 that addressed the proposed ordinance, along with other downtown bar owners, residents, and local musicians, Kwiecinski is concerned it could change downtown Olympia’s nightlife.

Possible compromises

Existing downtown businesses that give downtown its unique character could be better accommodated if the ordinance was altered. Possible compromise solutions include declaring an “entertainment district” along the 4th Avenue corridor, and creating different standards for this district. Having different time limits and decibel levels for Friday and Saturday nights would also be helpful. Another potential compromise would be ensuring that the ordinance is complaint-driven, so that enforcement only occurs when a downtown resident complains about noise. Concerns have arisen that the Olympia Police Department will be able to use the ordinance as a blunt instrument, selectively enforced to suit the

► **SOUND/VISION** continued on page 3

OLY 2012: THE FUTURE LOOKS LIKE ASTROTURF

by WIP News Service

When you hear the words “grass roots,” do you usually think of lobbyists, along with marketing and salespeople, gathering together to pave the way for wealthy developers? Or do you think of someone with a petition on a clipboard, ringing doorbells and sitting at a table at community events, soliciting donations in a coffee can and trying to spread the word and involve anyone who will listen? Nobody interviewed for the article about the future of downtown (see article above) had heard about Oly 2012, a supposedly “grass roots” organization, until the *Olympian* started talking about how it was going to save downtown.

“Olyjulah!” was how the *Olympian*’s editorial praising Oly 2012 began, using an infelicitous neologism which may even have offended the dead fish unlucky enough to end their corporeal existence wrapped in that page. “The new organization...will counteract the municipal nihilists who have dominated the discussion for years

with their status quo, no-growth mantra,” the editorial continued, “giving us ...[a] downtown where some visitors are afraid to walk the streets at night and other patrons complain they cannot find a vacant parking stall during the day.” Dire indeed, what nihilism has wrought. Everyone knows that large cities where growth has been encouraged are much safer and offer abundant free parking.

In reality, Oly 2012 appears to be the brainchild of six business executives and lobbyists, none of whom live downtown, and mainly consists of a website funded out of pocket. To “join” Oly 2012, Olympians are encouraged to sign up for their email list. There are no open meetings scheduled, but subsequently, “members” receive emails advising to contact the city council to encouraging them to vote in ways that will “help the city of Olympia, Washington achieve its goals to move downtown in a positive direction.” What, specifically, a “positive direction” may entail remains to be seen, although Oly 2012 recently sent

out an email encouraging “members” to contact the Port of Olympia and the city council, to urge them to vote to relocate the Children’s Hands-On Museum on a toxic clean-up site that is likely to be underwater in a few years.

While Oly 2012 has no official position yet on rezoning the isthmus, members of the Oly 2012 Steering Committee acknowledged to the *Olympian* that they are “leaning toward it,” and their website touts the advantages of “a more concentrated residential housing and commercially developed downtown.”

Is the work of Oly 2012 grass-roots organizing, or is it astroturfing? (“Astroturfing” refers to public relations efforts which strive to create the appearance of having arisen spontaneously amongst ordinary people, rather than tactically, by interested parties. Kind of like when people with connections to development businesses write letters to the editor saying how nice it would be to have a lot of tall buildings on the isthmus.) No clear links are appar-

ent between developers looking to move in downtown and the “Steering Committee” calling the shots at Oly 2012, although Oly 2012 founding member Cheryl Duryea owns the downtown clothing store Juicy Fruits, which stands to profit from having more upscale shoppers downtown, and increased property values. Yet suspicions are aroused as to the nature and motivation of this group.

Oly 2012 is not a registered corporation, non-profit or otherwise. It announced its existence at a meeting with the *Olympian*’s editorial board, an unusual way, perhaps for a grass-roots organization to spring into being. The *Olympian* announced that the group had no fundraising plans, but in response to an email query about whether they accepted donations, Peter Stroble replied that “We are all ears!”

Adding to concerns about the direction downtown Olympia may be taking and the impact this will have on its residents is the fact that while the Astroturf is grow-

► **Oly 2012** continued on page 4

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions

Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to submissions@olywip.org or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool

The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.

Mission Statement

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy

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based on economic, social, and environmental justice. *Works In Progress* is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues

Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. *WIP* is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

SDS banned by Evergreen State College

Olympia Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) has been suspended by the Evergreen administration for the remainder of the academic year and will face probation until Jan. 2009. The suspension means that SDS has lost its budget and office, can no longer hold meetings, book events, or use school facilities and equipment.

After the Feb. 14 Dead Prez concert and the ensuing uprising, the college imposed a ban on all concerts. Several weeks before, SDS had planned to hold two events on Mar. 7. The administration used the so-called "concert moratorium" to cancel SDS's pre-scheduled and pre-approved events 2 days before they were to take place. SDS, the speakers, and the performers decided to go through with the events without administrative approval, understanding that the cancellations were unjust and a direct attack on free speech. The administration responded by suspending SDS's status as a student group. There is one more appeal available to SDS before all official channels of petition have been exhausted. SDS plans to file their last appeal, but regardless will continue this struggle for a say in the functioning of the Evergreen campus and community by all means available and necessary.

Thurston–Santo Tomás Sister County presents "Cuando Venga La Paz—When Peace Comes"

Friday May 2 at 6:30 p.m., St. John's Episcopal Church, Capitol Way and 20th Street

Please join our potluck dinner with the Santo Tomás community delegation and hear perspectives from our sister county in Nicaragua. Great family event!. For more information: Jean Eberhardt (360) 943-8642.

Mecca Normal benefit for Books To Prisoners

Saturday, May 3, 6 pm, Dumpster Values, 302 4th Ave

Mecca Normal will be performing new songs and holding an Art Auction to benefit Books to Prisoners. They created the art on the themes of "Freedom" and "Malachi"—which is also the title of their newest song about war protester Malachi Ritscher. Some of the art and the new songs can be previewed at www.myspace.com/meccanormal.

The event marks the launch of their Dumpster Values' new \$1 clothing bin / stage where the \$1 clothing sales go to Books for Prisoners.

POWER (Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights) Picnic

Monday, May 5, 5:30 p.m., Sylvester Park

We will be celebrating the successes of the last year and talking about what we want for next year at a picnic in Sylvester Park. If it's not picnicking weather, we'll move to the First United Methodist Church on Legion and Boundary. Join us. Bring a dish to share; children are always welcome. *See the article on page 10.*

Thurston–Santo Tomás Sister County event: Poets Look South

Monday, May 5 at 7 p.m., Mixx 96 meeting room, State and Washington Streets in Olympia.

Artists Look South, a project of Olympia area artists, will highlight an evening of poetry by Santo Tomas visitor Wilfredo Espinoza, along with Maritza Soledad Sanchez of Mujeres in Motion. In the Mixx 96 meeting room on the corner of State and Washington in Olympia; donations welcome.

For more information: Lee Miller (360) 753-0942.

Climate Change: Two world views... Santo Tomás and Olympia

Thursday, May 8 at 6:00 p.m., Traditions Café at 5th and Water Street in downtown Olympia

Explore climate change and sustainability issues with Climate Solutions and the delegates from Nicaragua. Great family event! Kids, art and a kid-friendly conversation about solutions to climate change. 7:00 to 8:30 Open discussion with visitors from Santo Tomás, Nicaragua. For more info: Beth Doglio (360) 570-8804.

Norman Finkelstein on Israel–Palestine: Roots of Conflict, Prospects for Peace

Thurs., May 8, 7:30 pm, at The Evergreen State College, Lecture Hall 1.

Tickets required: Free tickets for Evergreen students from TESC Bookstore. All others: \$7 advance, \$10 at the door. Advance tickets available at Last Word Books (211 4th Ave E) and ticketswest.com.

Dr. Norman Finkelstein is a renowned scholar and author of several books, most recently *Beyond Chutzpah*, which was targeted for censorship by torture-advocate Alan Dershowitz, because it exposed the extent of human rights abuses and international law violations by Israel against the Palestinians.

Sponsored by SESAME (Students Educating Students About the Middle East). (360) 867-6724, sesame@evergreen.edu, www.evergreen.edu/sesame

Thurston-Santo Tomás Sister County event: Baile Los Dos Pueblos: Salsa, merengue, reggaeton, y pop

Saturday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the old K-Records space

ANNOUNCEMENTS

across from Fish Brew Pub in Olympia. Enter on Cherry Street near Legion Way.

Shake it with DJ Bernys from Nicaragua & Oly's own DJ Dallya. Salsa and merengue lessons at 7:30 with Alejandro Rugarcia, followed by dancing at 9:00. \$10 with lessons, \$7 from 9:00 on.

Women In Black Mothers' Day Peace Walk

Sunday, May 11, Capitol Lake Park, 5th and Water Streets, Noon—2 p.m.

Women In Black of Olympia requests the pleasure of your company at the Mother's Day Peace Walk around Capitol Lake and Percival Landing to the Motherhood Statue in Downtown Olympia. Mothers and Others Welcome. Meet at Capitol Lake Park, 5th and Water, rain or shine. No signs please.

Women's Speak-Out and Open Mic

Sunday, May 11th, 2-5 p.m., Mother's Day

Traditions Cafe, 5th and Water St.

Beginning with a special presentation of The Mama-logues (local first generation stories of migration)

There are many forms of oppression. Oppression of our bodies, our lands, our relations, our stories. They take these things and then they take our days to protest the taking of these things. They turn them into pretty greeting cards and flowers. We're taking it back.

All Women: Come Sing, Scream, Rant, Rage, Whisper, Read, Recite...All are Welcome, All is free. For children, beginning at noon, Tile Painting in support of the Olympia-Rafah Mural Project.

Veterans for Peace, Rachel Corrie Chapter 109 meeting

Sunday, May 18, 2-4 p.m. at Traditions on Water and 5th

We're a non-profit organization working to abolish war as an instrument of national policy. Veterans, friends, families of veterans are all welcome. We meet third Sunday of every month. www.vfp109rcc.org

Silent auction benefit for Iraqi Student Solidarity Committee

Friday, May 23, 7 p.m., Old K Records Building, 802 Jefferson Street SE

The Iraqi Student Solidarity Committee will be hosting a silent auction benefit on May 23rd @ 7pm. The event will be held at the Old K Records Building located at 802 Jefferson St. SE. Tickets for the event are sliding scale \$10-\$30, no one will be turned away, and can be purchased at Traditions in advance. If you would like to submit any donations or would like further information contact Jeff @ 253-334-8781 or by email at j_bhili@hotmail.com.

Wobblyfest 2008: A poor and working people's gathering of education and music

Saturday, May 24, 9 am—5 pm, Evergreen State College—Tacoma campus; 6 pm to 9 pm at Pitchpipe Infoshop, 621 Martin Luther King Jr Way, Tacoma.

Workshops 9 AM to 12 Noon: Evergreen State College-Tacoma Campus 1. Immigrant Workers: 2. Working Class Environmentalism: 3. Joe Hill and IWW Music. Fanning the flames of discontent Spoken Word and Music 1-5 p.m Evergreen State College-Tacoma Campus.

Organized by Tacoma General Membership Branch, Industrial Workers of the World: PO Box 5464, Tacoma, 98415, TacIWW@iww.org, tacoma.iww.org, www.iww.org

Visiting zine collection and reading

Zine Reading and Potluck, Sunday, June 1, 4- 6:30 p.m., Olympia Free School, 610 Columbia Street

There's a new zine collection at the downtown public library, 313 8th Ave. SE. If you're interested in zines, please come by and visit! A display can be found near the central seating area/atrium. We currently have about 200 zines, and they can each be checked out for three weeks.

There's also going to be a zine reading and potluck at the Olympia Free School. If you're interested in reading or would like more information, please write to olympiazines@gmail.com.

Works in Progress—proudly serving what's left of Olympia!

WIP Schedule

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► **SOUND/VISION** continued from page 1
whims of police. Since most anyone having a conversation on the sidewalk after 10 p.m. will be in violation of the ordinance, it has a huge potential for misuse, and could serve as a way of further limiting the use of public space.

Exemptions to the ordinance are provided for events such as Lakefair, Procession of the Species, and Arts Walk, events typically enjoyed most by non-residents who venture downtown only occasionally. Daytime noise restrictions included in the ordinance restrict sounds in excess of 70 decibels that persist longer than five minutes. Will this be used against people who chant “Peace! Now!” all the way down Capitol Boulevard? Can this ordinance be used to restrict our right to assemble, to restrict the public’s use of public space?

In defense of the proposed ordinance, Jeff Kingsbury, whose Capital Playhouse typically ends performances much earlier than other downtown venues, proclaims this in the best interest of downtown residents. In an email to Cowman, who wrote with concerns about the ordinance’s effect on the downtown music scene, Kingsbury replied “this ordinance addresses the concerns that have been brought to us by a handful of current downtown residents, regarding their ability to live in quiet enjoyment after reasonable hours.”

Official complaints over the past two years have been few, however, and two out of the seven concerned venues are now closed (Manium and the Mint). Complaints have also been made about late night trains and their signals going off accidentally, an occurrence that an ordinance is unlikely to change. Many people who live downtown say that the ordinance will do nothing to prevent the most irritating noise (random shouting drunks, Lakefair, loud motors), while having a negative impact on one of downtown’s biggest attractions, its night-life.

It appears that creating an area more attractive to high-end housing development is what truly matters to the Council. In an email that was widely circulated, Councilmember Kingsbury answered to a woman who wrote with concerns that the noise ordinance would “severely inhibit

local musicians from performing.” Kingsbury responded by claiming that Seattle’s “more restrictive” ordinance has not had any impact on the nightlife there, which he claimed has “NOT been inhibited.” He goes on to say that “one of the challenges of Growth Management is putting more housing in our downtown. Urban living has consequences. This may be one of them.”

Very very absolutely
When public comments at the April 15 city council meeting addressed concerns about the noise ordinance, Jeff Kingsbury dismissed them, saying “Seattle...[has] a very, very strict noise ordinance that has done absolutely nothing to prohibit live music in their downtown.”

Calling Seattle’s proposed noise ordinance “very, very” strict is a little over the top. Vague and subject to selective enforcement would be more accurate; the text of the Seattle ordinance states it is “unlawful for a person to have allowed to originate noise from the property that is audible from inside the residence of a person of normal hearing.” Revisiting the scenario in which a complaint is made from an apartment a block away from the Capitol Theater, with an ordinance like Seattle’s, the offending noise would be measured inside the thick brick walls of the Martin Apartments, rather than at the property line outside. It is difficult to see how that ordinance is more restrictive than Olympia’s.

Furthermore, it is perhaps premature to gauge the impact of this Seattle ordinance, since it will not take effect until June 1. Despite that, there has already been an impact on local music venues. The Seattle police have recently been visiting bars and night-clubs such as Neumo’s and Chop Suey, with concerns about noise levels, although these visits were not initiated by resident complaints, and the police saw fit to discuss noise levels without bothering to bring along decibel meters. If arbitrary enforcement undertaken at police initiative is defined as “absolutely nothing,” and Seattle’s ordinance’s impact is measured before it has taken effect, worries over the proposed noise ordinance for downtown Olympia may be, if anything, underestimated.



Whoa, where did Olympia go? Artist renditions of a more sterile, culturally suppressed downtown, from Triway Enterprises. The top picture looks like the Tumwater Brewery moved to downtown Olympia. The bottom picture is a view of the proposed 5th Ave from the intersection at Water St.

Top Ten Donors to the Current City Council, by Type				
Donor	Type	Recipient(s)	Amount	Election Year(s)
Thurston Citizens for a Better Community	Conference Center Advocates	Mah, Kingsbury, Hyer, Messmer	\$2500	2005
Rocky Mountain Development	Developer	Strub, Ottavelli, Mah	\$2100	2007
Frank Roberts	Construction	Mah	\$1500	2005, 2007
Triway	Developer	Mah, Strub	\$1450	2007
Democratic Central Committee	Democrats	Kingsbury, Ottavelli	\$1250	2005, 2007
Master Builders	Construction Association	Kingsbury, Mah	\$1250	2005, 2007
J.A. Morris	Realtor	Mah, Ottavelli	\$1150	2005, 2007
Realtor PAC	Realtors	Ottavelli, Strub	\$1000	2007
Orca Construction	Construction	Mah, Messmer	\$1000	2005
Cooper Realty/KBJ	Developer	Kingsbury, Hyer	\$1000	2005

Source: Washington State Public Disclosure Commission, Election Years 2005-2007
City of Olympia code enforcement officer Ruth Snyder, on the other hand, feels that concerns about the impact of the noise ordinance have been blown out of proportion. She asserted that most of the enforcement of noise violations would be performed by code enforcement officers, rather than police, and that venues exceeding the noise limits would first be issued courtesy letters, rather than citations. Snyder affirmed that there will be ample opportunity to reshape the ordinance before it is enacted. The next opportunity for public input is the Planning Commission meeting on May 5, at 6:30 p.m. at Olympia City Council Chambers, 900 Plum Street SE.
Paving the way for development
Clearly, the quiet enjoyment of current—and future—downtown residents is of utmost importance to the city council. The city has been giving a helping hand to several developers with their plans to build upscale housing in the downtown area. Most notably, the City has been very accommodating to Triway Enterprises (also a large contributor to several councilmembers’ campaign funds—see graphic) in its effort to re-zone the isthmus between Capitol Lake and Budd Bay in order to allow high-end, high-rise construction.

ate the Lacey Gateway Project—featuring the popular destination store for hunters and people who like to enjoy the outdoors by buying expensive equipment, Cabela’s—he can afford to. Several recipients of his largesse now sit on the City Council. Triway Enterprises, along with a retired concrete business owner were Doug Mah’s largest campaign contributors last year.

Triway is not the only developer for whom the Olympia City Council is extending open arms. Colpitts Development Co. of Seattle bought a large lot on Columbia Street between 4th and 5th Avenues, with the intention of building 120 “market rate units”—provided that the City of Olympia pay for the site’s environmental clean-up, which may be upwards of half a million dollars. The City agreed.

Who cares about renters?
Since 2000, Pat Tassoni has been running the Thurston County Tenants Union, which serves the interests of low income people in the Olympia community by advising them of their rights under the Landlord-Tenant Act. After starting the TCTU as a volunteer, he has been paid very modestly while receiving funding through Community Development Block Grants administered by the City of Olympia, as well as grants from the Catholic Archdiocese and other, smaller sources.
Typically, the Tenants Union advises 100 people a month, many of whom are facing possible eviction and the prospect of homelessness. In addition, the Tenants Union works on other projects that directly affect the well-being of low income people, many of whom live in our community, such as lobbying the local and state legislative bodies legislature for improved housing quality and stability. Tassoni has worked for legislation protecting tenants against discrimination based on their source of income, as well as measures granting tenants time to collect their belongings in the event of an eviction, among other things.

Out of a job
“I would love to work myself out of a job. It would be great if tenants’ rights were so well-protected that I’m unnecessary,” says Tassoni. But that’s not how Tassoni’s potential unemployment scenario is playing out; the new City Council, with apparent disregard for its ten year plan to end homelessness, has seen fit in its distribution of CDBG funds to discontinue the \$18,000 which has kept the Tenants Union running for the last seven years.
The Thurston County Tenants Union received this money—its largest source of funding—since 2000. There is a very real possibility that the Tenants Union will shut its doors permanently this year if other funding sources are not secured, a prospect which does not seem to be of grave concern to the city council, all of whom are landlords or homeowners.
To add insult to injury, the funding was cut without a real explanation to Tassoni—or the more than 40% of residents of Olympia who rent their homes and rely on the Tenants Union for advice and advocacy. In an article in *The Olympian*, remarks made by councilmember Jeff Kingsbury gave the impression the Tenants Union wasn’t submitting proposals or providing accounting

Sharon Genzlinger, facilities manager for the Family Support Center (that recently received at \$525 contribution from Tri Vo, principal of Triway Enterprises) wrote a letter to the editor to express her completely genuine appreciation for the lovely condo designs. Apparently, Genzlinger was unaware that the proposal is for rezoning, not for design, and any pretty pictures shown at this stage are merely speculative.

Tri Vo is busy spreading money around. After razing acres of woods in Lacey to cre-

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to the City on how it spent CDBG funding.
“We started asking some tough questions which were along the lines of ... how do we track accountability?” [Kingsbury] said.”
Tassoni wrote to Kingsbury to refute this statement, stating “My project has always submitted proposals for funding even before your staff [under previous city administration] developed and/or required such. The same is true for performance measures. Your city department should have a record of them as I have sent in quarterly reports as well as an annual report of my activities since 2001.” Kingsbury responded that *The Olympian* article had taken his comments out of context. No further explanation was provided to Tassoni.

A really bad message
Renters are dismayed their interests seem to be of such little interest to the same council that blithely allocated \$50,000 to pay a consultant to create graphics showing what the isthmus would look like with condos and is planning to spend nearly half a million dollars to plant trees on Legion Way. Downtown resident and renter Jason Taellious remarked, “Cutting funding of the Tenants Union sends a really bad message ...The less you keep people informed, the easier it is to control them. These are the same people—downtown residents—that the city council says they’re trying to protect with the noise ordinance.”

Longtime downtown resident Jenny Jenkins is also sorry to see the continued existence of the Tenants Union put in jeopardy. “Not all landlords are perfect, and not all tenants are perfect,” Jenkins acknowledges. “But landlords have people to advocate for them, and the law puts them in a position of power. As a renter, I’ll feel a lot more vulnerable without the Tenants Union to help me understand my rights.”
Although Tassoni expects to keep working through most of this year and seeks other sources of funding, the future is uncertain. Funds to protect the interests of low-income folks are getting harder to find in the current political climate.

Conflict of interests?
The city council's enthusiasm for promoting development in downtown Olympia is concerning, in light of the fact that several members own downtown businesses or property and stand to benefit from the increase in property values that may result. When the council voted on the purchase of land from the Port to serve as the new site for the Hands-On Children’s Museum, Joe Hyer recused himself, explaining that he had a conflict of interest.
Because his store “The Alpine Experience” is located adjacent to the site, Hyer stands to benefit from the increased use of the area; he also made reference to the fact that other members of his family own property nearby. The Hands-On Children’s Museum is relocating because the state

has plans to construct a Heritage Center on its current site. However, some find the selected new location to be rather puzzling. Taellious, father of a two-year-old, says he has concerns about the site.
“We know that there is ground contamination, and the water table is rising. We have land available that’s not contaminated, so why is it being built there?”
If the land around the isthmus and Capitol Lake is rezoned and subsequently developed, property values and rents will likely increase. Two large contributors to councilmembers’ campaign funds, J.A. Morris, and Orca Construction, also own parcels in the vicinity.
It is also likely the Free School will not benefit from this sort of development; in fact, it is dubious whether it and many other downtown businesses and organizations—many of which are barely making ends meet as is—will survive the rent increases that may result as developers come in and change the character of downtown Olympia to match the city council’s vision.

Downtown already has value
It seems that the current City Council favors economic growth at the expense of what is truly Olympia’s most valuable asset—its unique character. The present City Council’s vision of downtown emphasizes economic development without recognizing that the many people who live, work, own businesses and otherwise spend time downtown like it the way it is.

“My business is beautiful,” said Anne Buck, owner of Buck’s Fifth Avenue, scoffing at the notion that Olympia’s downtown core is languishing. “Business is better than ever, because people are staying home and cooking more.”
“What I don’t like is trying to make Olympia into just another town,” she adds. Although she doesn’t oppose the construction of more downtown housing, Buck does not feel that is a good idea for Olympia to change its zoning to allow high-rise condos on the isthmus.
Kwecinski echoes her sentiments: “I am not opposed to new housing downtown but not if it comes at the expense of downtown’s character.”
Taellious expresses a feeling voiced by many “It seems like it’s a top down thing, rather than from the people. This is something that is being forced on downtown based on somebody’s vision, rather than it coming from the collective vision. “
Whose downtown is it? Whose vision matters? Shouldn’t the City Council be more worried about the concerns of their constituents than about what “tactics” they can use to make their vision “appeal to the public”? Olympia’s citizens have strong feelings about their community, and ideas of their own about what is best for the city. The City Council should be paying more attention to seeing other points of view, and spending less effort forcing their vision on an unwilling public.

► **Oly 2012** continued from page 1

ing rank, the organization which should be promoting the interests of current downtown residents, the Downtown Neighborhood Association, is failing to thrive, despite plenty of manure.
“Pretty much everyone who started or was involved with the DNA formation is no longer involved because of the self-appointed leadership of one particular person, who won’t seem to stop, and who undermines the interests of the residents, especially around issues of downtown development,” said one former DNA member, who asked not be identified. The DNA’s president, David Scherer, is employed by the development and property management group, Deskoba. A current member of the DNA reports that “David just sent out a mass email encouraging support of Oly 2012.” A number of DNA members have questioned if supporting Oly 2012 really supports their interests, and there has been some dissent expressed on

the DNA mailing list, where every email is moderated by Scherer.
When it comes to promoting interests of the people who currently live downtown, many of whom are middle or low-income, at present there is a gaping hole. Says the disgruntled former DNA member, “I had hoped when it formed that the DNA would be one of those neighborhood associations that protected the rights of the residents and improved living conditions for the people downtown. But, as it turns out, it really seems to be more like a little ODA [Olympia Downtown Association, a group of merchants] that supports development interests, and then has a street fair every year.”
Some downtown residents have expressed concern that while the DNA does essentially nothing, Oly 2012 will send representatives to City Council meetings, claiming to represent their entire mailing

list.
“Are they going to show up and say we have 2000 members and this is what our members recommend, when actually, they don’t seem to hold meetings, and policy positions seem to be made without input from the ‘grass roots?’” questioned one woman who was uncertain whether it would be a good idea to join or not. Others wonder whether the current residents have any role to play in Oly 2012’s vision for downtown, or whether Oly 2012 has been formed to represent the interests of another class of people. On Oly 2012’s website, support for current downtown businesses and encouraging the development of housing downtown are expressed as two of the organization’s goals, which rather closely mirror the goals of the Olympia Downtown Association.
No mention is made of the people who already live there. The Oly 2012 website does refer, however, to the 2007 municipal elec-

tion as a mandate for change: “Our 2007 local election signaled the community’s support for leaders who are passionate about downtown and ready to tackle tough local issues.”
But was the 2007 election really a “mandate for change”? Did people vote for Doug Mah because of his attractive “passion”? Did voters believe his vision for Olympia matched their own? Or did they simply refuse to vote for Meta Hogan because they disapproved of her smoking habit? Few Olympians would disagree that they want to see downtown move in a “positive” direction—but there are as many visions of what that would be as there are citizens, and Oly 2012, far from being a grassroots organization, seems to be a small, monied minority, eager to promote their vision of downtown Olympia as an upscale shopping and residential district to a receptive City Council.

From “Hippest Town in the West” to ghost town

from an April 14 letter by Tobi Vail

Dear City Council Members,
As a self-employed musician, a long time downtown resident and a worker in the music industry I am writing in opposition of the noise ordinance. I first moved into the Martin Apartments in 1988. I was 18, a musician and active member of the local Olympia music scene. Nirvana, Calvin Johnson's Beat Happening and Melvins were just a few of the terrific local bands that played in downtown art galleries and all ages venues on a regular basis. One of those groups went on to become one of the most celebrated bands in the history of rock-n-roll. Had the noise ordinance existed then, Nirvana would not have been able to play live in Olympia.
A more recent example of a musician who came out of the local downtown music scene and has gone on to international fame is K recording artist Kimya Dawson, whose music is prominently featured in the Academy Award winning movie Juno. I strongly suggest you go see it and reconsider your decision to pass a noise ordinance that will hinder rather than foster the vital music community that has existed here since the early 1980s.
In the past few decades, the local music community has gone through many changes and is now thriving, diverse and more tolerant of cultural differences. Not only are there a plethora of places to play and styles of live music for concertgoers to chose from, there are now live DJ nights

at many dance clubs downtown, including Jakes on 4th, a local gay bar. The Brotherhood, le Voyeur and QB prioritize the safety of female, trans and/or gay clientele as a matter of policy. Ben Moore’s has jazz nights and also features local blues artists, while the Mark, the Midnight Sun, the China Clipper, El Guanaco and the Vault often feature R&B, hip hop and all kinds of dance music, McCoy’s and the 4th Ave are just two of the many downtown venues who throw alternative rock shows for the over 21 crowd. The Capitol Theater, the Eagles Hall, Traditions and the Washington Center host World Music events several times a year, while the Olympia Ballroom is regularly used for wedding receptions and teen dances. Irish music can often be heard at Plenty, and karaoke happens at several bars weekly, offering amateur singers a place to practice. Everything from electronic music to heavy metal, to avant garde experimental noise music shows also happen regularly downtown. All-Ages Punk shows have occurred less often since Manium closed, but hopefully that will change, as providing misfit teens a space to be creative and see music (rather than to party and get in trouble) should be valued by all.
In addition to diversity at the local level, Olympia is culturally enriched by its international reputation: young people from Tokyo, Mexico City, Madrid, Berlin, Beijing, London and Tel Aviv make pilgrimages here, providing local musicians with an informal network of cultural exchange. Many students come to The Evergreen State

College from all over the US to start bands. The city should recognize Olympia is a tourist attraction and destination for young people from all over the world because of the downtown music scene.
Local musicians not only have achieved notoriety and international prestige but work hard to build community and promote diversity and equality in the arts. In the 90’s Olympia was the birthplace of the Riot Grrl movement, home to internationally known female-fronted bands such as Bratmobile, Sleater-Kinney and my own group, Bikini Kill. This trend continues today with Scream Club, Twin and Spider and the Webs. Riot Grrl is not only a crucial political movement for female musicians, it is largely regarded as one of the starting points of Third Wave Feminism—a version of feminism that is arguably more diverse and inclusive than its 1970s predecessor.
Olympia has been the founding city for several well-attended independent culture, art and music festivals that draw a crowd from all over the world such as the International Pop Underground festival, YoYo A Go Go, Homo A Go Go, the Experimental Music Festival and Ladyfest. Ladyfest started here in 2000 and has since happened in over 50 cities around the world. Several influential independent record labels started here, such as K Records, Chainsaw and Kill Rock Stars. K and Kill Rock Stars continue to do business here and represent Olympia in the Punk, Indie and Underground Music world.
There will be an economic impact to

your decision as well as a cultural one. It was Sleater-Kinney that got Olympia mentioned in Time magazine as “The Hippest Town in the West.” When I first started going to see live music downtown I was a young musician who went to Capital High School. Downtown was deserted because the mall had put the department stores out of business. Local artists and musicians were responsible for revitalizing downtown and this continues today, with local record labels, venues, and independently owned record stores being a part of the economy and downtown landscape.
At the very least, this needs to be addressed in a public forum. The survival of downtown Olympia as a vital, internationally known cultural mecca is dependent on the continual existence of live music venues and dance clubs for people of all ages. The cultural significance of the local music scene may not be visible to everyone but many people who live, do business, work and/or visit here treasure it. I can think of several music history books that cite Olympia as a vital part of music culture and imagine this will only grow over time. The City Council needs to recognize the Olympia music scene as a local resource that needs to be sustained, honored and protected—not penalized by an unnecessary noise ordinance that will prohibit live music events.
Sincerely,
Tobi Vail,
Kill Rock Stars

Immigration and Border Dialogues Conference

at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA

May 15–18, 2008 **FREE!**

Organized by Bridges Not Walls

The Immigration and Border Dialogues Conference is organized by Bridges Not Walls, a group of concerned community members from the South Sound area and beyond who have united in solidarity, and are building a human rights movement in order to realize a sustainable future for all. The goals of Bridges Not Walls are various: to create bridges between communities; celebrate our shared humanity; build awareness about the importance of human rights in the immigration debate; change the conversation about immigration in our country and community; and support immigrants by acting in solidarity in the face of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) detentions and deportations.

The Immigration and Border Dialogues Conference is a free conference that will be held at The Evergreen State College from May 15th-18th. This conference examines barriers, real or perceived, that divide our communities. Together we will examine current realities faced by immigrants, explore inclusive approaches to immigration, and create space for the emergence of a more just and humane future.

Participants will leave this conference with specific bridge-building strategies to reclaim our common humanity and build multicultural alliances across age, gender, culture, ethnicity, and legal status with the keystones of mutual respect and support.

Our program includes presenters from human rights organizations working both regionally and along the US/Mexico border, and includes panel discussions, speakers, workshops, seminars, theater, art, and music.

We hope that this gathering will provide all of us with opportunities to listen and learn, analyze and reflect, network, connect and strategize. Please join us in the dialogue. These issues affect us all. Each presence will contribute to both the content and outcome of this conference. We hope to see you there!

Pre-registration preferred, but registration at the door is also possible. Call, e-mail, or go to our website for a registration form. Childcare provided with pre-registration. Interpretation services will also be available during the conference.

Media representatives are welcome to attend the conference and/or schedule interviews with conference presenters. For more information on the conference visit <http://oly-wa.us/bridges> or contact Molly at 280-6480.

Contact Information
Email: bridgesnotwalls@riseup.net
Phone: (360) 280-6480 English
 (360) 539-4825 Bilingual
Visit our website for more details and updated conference information:
<http://oly-wa.us/bridges/>

CHILD CARE HOURS FOR CONFERENCE
9:30–4pm FRI
8:30–5pm SAT
9:30–2:30pm SUN

Building a movement for a sustainable future for all • Raids in our communities • Border art • Shifting the immigration debate • Immigrant workers and human rights

May 15–18
The Evergreen State College
Olympia WA



THE
IMMIGRATION and
BORDER dialogues 20
conference 08

(360) 280-6480 • bridgesnotwalls@riseup.net • <http://oly-wa.us/bridges/>

Thursday, May 15: *Opening night*

7.00 PM: Las Mamalogues
at The Evergreen State College Recital Hall
Hijas De Su Madre claiming and reclaiming our Mothers’ lived experience—unveiling an identity rooted in the past but grounded in the present.

Friday, May 16

All Friday events take place in The Evergreen State Collge Longhouse, except for the workshops, which will take place in the Seminar II Building.

9.30 AM — Registration

10.00 AM — Welcome from Beatriz Flores Gutiérrez

10.15 AM TO 12.00 PM — *Panel discussion:*
“News from the border, border militarization, how border communities are responding, and immigration as a human rights issue”
Beatriz Flores Gutiérrez, *facilitator*, with:
Jennifer Allen of *Border Action Network* in Tucson, AZ
Heather “Ani” Goodenberger, *scholar and activist*
Delle McCormick of *BorderLinks* in Tucson, AZ
Robin Hoover of *Humane Borders* in Tucson, AZ
John Fife, *a founder of the Sanctuary Movement*

12.00 PM TO 12.45 PM — Lunch (*on your own*)

12.45 PM–2.15 PM — Workshops (*in the Seminar II Building*):

El Teatro de la Esperanza Theater Workshop <i>with Rodrigo Duarte Clark</i> of El Teatro de la Esperanza from San Francisco, CA	Tortillas: The Food of Migration <i>with Heather “Ani” Goodenberger</i>	Upholding Human Rights on the Border and Comprehensive Immigration Reform <i>with Jennifer Allen</i> of Border Action Network in Tucson, Arizona	Community Dialogues on Immigration <i>with Nina Triffleman</i> of TESC Labor Center, Erika Márquez and Molly Gibbs of Bridges Not Walls in Olympia, WA
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2.30 PM–4.00 PM — Workshops (*in the Seminar II Building*):

Root Causes of Immigration, The Effects of Immigration on Women, and War on the Border <i>with Delle McCormick</i> of BorderLinks in Tuscon, AZ	Immigration (I.C.E.) Enforcement Tactics and How Communities Can Respond and Fight Back <i>with Shankar Narayan</i> of Hate Free Zone in Seattle, WA	Lynching in the Desert: The Policy of Death as Deterrence <i>with Rev. John Fife</i> , a founder of the Sanctuary Movement, from Tucson, AZ	Music for the Movement Workshop <i>with Pablo Peregrina</i> , singer/songwriter from the Tucson/Nogales border
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4.00 PM — Friday evening registration

5.00 PM — Welcome to Evening Activities and to Conference

5.15–6.15 PM — Valarie James, Border Artist—Artist Talk

6.15–7.15 PM — Panel: Arab Muslim Detention and Community Activism / Potential for Arab Latino Alliances
Therese Saliba, facilitator

7.15 PM — Community Potluck

8.00 PM — Keynote Speaker: Rev. Robin Hoover of Humane Borders in Tucson, AZ
“Humane Borders: Migrant-Centered Reforms”

9.00 PM — EVENING ACTIVITIES: Films on Immigration & Youth Art Show

Saturday, May 17

Registration in the Rotunda and Opening Activities in Lecture Hall 1 of the Evergreen State College, Workshops in Locations on Campus TBA

8.30 AM — Saturday Morning Registration

9.00–10.45 AM — *Panel: Community Response to Immigration Law Enforcement and Detention Centers: Solutions and Recommendations*
Tony Zaragoza, *facilitator*, with:
Rosalinda Guillen of *Community to Community* in Bellingham, WA
Jennifer Allen of *Border Action Network* in Tucson, AZ
Pedro Sosa of *the American Friends Service Committee* in Portland, OR
Maru Villalpando of *Washington Community Action Network* in Seattle, WA
Deena Ledger of *Hate Free Zone* in Seattle, WA

11.00 AM to 12.45 PM — Workshops (*locations to be announced*):

Spiritual Self and Solidarity <i>with Rev. Robin Hoover</i> of Humane Border in Tuscon, AZ	Living in the I.C.E. Age: Women Creating Peaceful Communities <i>with Rosalinda Guillen</i> and María Cuevas of Community to Community in Bellingham, WA, and Emiliana Aguila of Salem, OR	Know Your Rights with I.C.E. Agents, Police, and in the Detention Center (SPANISH LANGUAGE WORKSHOP) <i>with Maru Villalpando</i> of Washington CAN in Seattle, WA, and Pedro Sosa of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in Portland, OR	What Kind of Country Do We Want to Be? A Conversation on Immigration and Human Rights <i>with Martin Vallen</i> of Hate Free Zone in Seattle, WA
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Saturday, May 17 (continued)

12.45-1.30 PM — Lunch (On Your Own)

1.30-2.30 PM — Keynote Speaker Camilo Mejía of Iraq Veterans Against the War: War Resistance, The Effects of War on Immigrants, and the Dream Act
The Evergreen State College Lecture Hall 1

2.45-4.30 PM — Workshops (locations to be announced):

The New Sanctuary Movement <i>with Sarah Loose</i> of the Oregon New Sanctuary Movement, <i>and Diane Aidae</i> and <i>Jeff Sells</i> of St. David’s Episcopal Church	Re-claiming Media <i>with Beatriz Flores Gutiérrez</i>	Community Organizing Intercambio <i>(SPANISH LANGUAGE WORKSHOP)</i> <i>with Maru Villalpando</i> of Washington CAN in Seattle, WA, Rosalinda Guillen of Community to Community in Bellingham, WA, <i>and Pedro Sosa</i> of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in Portland, OR	Countering Anti-Immigration Attacks and Hate in Eastern Washington <i>with María Cuevas</i> and <i>Rogelio Montez</i> , Hate Free Yakima	Border Art Workshop <i>with Valarie James</i>	The Human Face of Global Economics and Militarization <i>with Delle McCormick</i>
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4.30-5.30 PM — Interest Groups

The following Saturday evening events take place in the Longhouse at the Evergreen State College.

5.30 PM — Dinner break

6.00 PM — Music by Pablo Peregrina
Singer/Songwriter from the Tucson/Nogales border

7.00 PM — Keynote Speaker: John Fife, a founder of the Sanctuary Movement: “Humanitarian Aid as an Act of Resistance”

8.00 PM — Teatro de la Esperanza, Rodrigo Duarte Clark: “La Víctima”
A groundbreaking production created by Teatro de la Esperanza that looks at Mexican-US immigration from a historical yet intimate perspective of a mother and son.

10.00 PM — Dance

Sunday, May 18

All of Sunday’s activities take place in the Longhouse

10.00 AM: Panel: Next Steps for Local Response and Alliances
Rosalinda Guillen of Community to Community in Bellingham, WA
Maru Villalpando of Washington Community Action Network in Seattle, WA

11.00 AM: World Café
Round table discussions lead by local community organizers and community members help participants reflect on and synthesize information from the previous two days of the conference.

12.00 PM: STRATEGY SESSION: Local Alliances and Regional/National Networks: Carrying the Movement Forward

1.30 PM-2.00 PM Closing

Artwork by Daniel DeSiga



About the presenters

From the Southern US

Jennifer Allen, Executive Director Border Action Network Tucson, AZ
The Border Action Network works with immigrant and border communities in southern Arizona to ensure that rights are respected, human dignity upheld, and that our communities are healthy places to live. BAN’s long-term goal is to build a national movement that calls for the fulfillment of human rights in this country.

Rev. Robin Hoover, Founder & Executive Director of Humane Borders Tucson, AZ
Humane Borders is an interfaith network in Tucson that has set up more than 70 watering stations in the desert for crossing migrants. Increasing numbers of immigrants die each year attempting to cross the border to the U.S. Humane Borders believes the death toll is the direct result of U.S. border policy, which ignores the economic forces on both sides of the border driving human beings to make such choices.

Delle McCormick, Executive Director of BorderLinks Tucson, AZ
BorderLinks is a bi-national organization that brings people together to build bridges of solidarity across North and Latin American borders and promotes intercultural understanding and respect. BorderLinks encourages a shared analysis of the root causes of immigration, promotes activism and advocacy around border issues, trains and empowers leadership on both sides of the border, and supports projects for community well-being and sustainable development.

Rev. John Fife, A Founder of the Sanctuary Movement in the U.S. Fife was the minister of Tucson’s Southside Presbyterian Church for 35 years. The church was the first to offer sanctuary to undocumented immigrants from El Salvador in 1981. That launched a movement that eventually provided safe haven to thousands of Central Americans in over 500 churches and synagogues nationwide. A new movement is growing across the country to provide sanctuary to immigrants in response to the rise in deportations and work raids by the federal government. The growing network is being spearheaded by the Reverend John Fife, a founder of the Sanctuary Movement of the 1980s.

Heather ‘Ani’ Goodenberger
Heather “Ani” Goodenberger is a passionate advocate for migrant rights. As an alum of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Young Adult Volunteer program and a graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary, Ani sees her role as forming bridges between Anglo and Hispanic worshipping communities. She has worked as a translator and interpreter, worship leader, and as Program Coordinator for Humane Borders in Tucson. She is currently working in North Carolina.

Pablo Peregrina, Musician
In his original musical compositions, Pablo fuses a bi-national identity and the experience of living in a Mexico-USA border town. Pablo Peregrina’s versatile style allows him to journey musical rhythms such as Latin, Rock, Pop, Bossa Nova, and Cha-Cha. Pablo is known for his original migrants’ songs, which have left an indelible mark in the cultural landscape of Tucson, Arizona. Pablo’s high-energy performances embody the voices of migrants as he sings about their struggle while crossing the Arizona desert.

Valarie James, Artist
Valerie has direct experience with the power of art to inform and heal. Her life as an artist and as a human being has been forever altered through participation in community works of art. Her art and her writing continue to bridge cultures. For the last 30 years, she has employed art as a transformative vehicle in social, spiritual, and environmental causes.

From the Northwest

Rosalinda Guillen and María Cuevas, Community to Community—Comunidad a Comunidad
Bellingham, WA. Community to Community Development is a women-led, place based, grassroots organization working for a just society and healthy communities. They are committed to systemic change and to creating strategic alliances that strengthen local and global movements towards social, economic, and environmental justice.

Pedro Sosa, Project Voice Coordinator for the American Friends Service Committee’s NW Region, a program whose purpose is to strengthen the voices of immigrant-led organizations in setting the national agenda for immigration policy and immigrants’ rights.

Maru Villalpando, Community Organizer with Washington CAN in Seattle, WA..
Washington CAN is working towards an immigration reform that will provide a guaranteed path to citizenship, protect all workers, reunite families, and give access to our judicial system to all.

Shankar Narayan, Martin Vallen, Deena Ledger, Hate Free Zone in Seattle, WA, whose mission is to advance the fundamental principles of democracy and justice by building power within immigrant communities, in collaboration with key allies.

Sarah Loose, Dianne Aidde, and Jeff Sells, activists in the New Sanctuary Movement in the Pacific Northwest.

Special Guestst

Camilo Mejía
Staff Sergeant Camilo Mejía deserted the US military after fighting for five months in Iraq. He now serves as Chair of the Board of Iraq Veterans Against the War. Staff Sergeant Camilo Mejía became the new face of the antiwar movement in early 2004 when he applied for a discharge from the Army as a conscientious objector. After serving in the Army for nearly nine years, he became the first known Iraq veteran to refuse to fight, citing moral concerns about the war and occupation. His principled stand has helped to rally the growing opposition and embolden his fellow soldiers.

Rodrigo Duarte Clark
Director of Teatro de la Esperanza, bringing Latino/Chicano perspectives to the stage. Rodrigo Duarte Clark is one of the veterans of the Chicano theater movement that began in the 1960s, and he has written the plays “Brujerías,” “Hijos’ El Pulpo,” “Rosita’s Barrio,” “Basement Refugees,” “Don’t Leave Me, Baby” and “Rosita’s Jalapeño Kitchen.” He also is the lead writer for “La Víctima,” a collection of Chicano theater works.



Next steps:

Join us for a ‘Community Dialogues on Immigration’ Training on Saturday, May 31st, 11:00-5:00. Location TBA in south Puget Sound. Sponsored by Bridges Not Walls and the NW Federation of Community Organizations. Contact Bridges Not Walls for more information; registration will be available at the Immigration and Border Dialogues Conference.

Monthly vigils at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma. Community to Community from Bellingham maintains a steady presence at the detention center on the second Saturday of every month. Bridges Not Walls supports this day-long vigil, which includes providing food and drink to the families that come, at great expense, from all over the west coast to visit their loved ones inside. Contact BNW for carpool information from Olympia.

This conference is sponsored by the following groups:

Bridges Not Walls
The Olympia Food Coop
The Thurston-Santo Tomás Sister County Association

The Evergreen State College
The President’s Diversity Fund
Academic Deans
Provost, Don Bantz
Center for Community Based Learning and Action

TESC Student groups
Women of Color Coalition (WOCC)
The Chicano Student Movement of Aztlan (MEChA)
Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES)
Women’s Resource Center (WRC)
Students Educating Students about the Middle East (SESAME)
Appearing Task Force on Anti-Oppression (ATF)
VOX—Communities for Choice

TESC Academic Programs
Seeds of Change
Mediaworks
Academic Writing: The Next Step
Political Economy and Social Movements
Topics in the Social Sciences and Native Studies
Making Space and Using It: Installation and Performance Art

Thank you to all who supported the Immigration Cafés in Shelton and Olympia this past year! Let us keep the energy moving forward.



Members of CIELO and Imigrantes Unidos de Shelton, May Day March 2007. Olympia, WA. Photo by Ellen Shortt Sanchez.

Briana Waters: Guilt by association

by Leon Janssen

Briana Waters, a 32-year-old violin teacher and mother, was indicted in 2006 for aiding the arson of the University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH) in 2001. Briana was charged toward the end of a string of indictments stretching back to December 2005, when the FBI’s “Operation Backfire” made numerous arrests for a series of ELF/ALF actions from 1996 to 2001. Briana went to trial facing five counts: one charge for conspiracy, two overlapping charges for arson, and two charges involving use of a destructive device in a crime of violence, which carries a 30-year mandatory minimum sentence.

Briana steadfastly maintains her innocence to this day. She is the only one of the “Operation Backfire” defendants to take her case to trial.

Briana lived in Olympia until 2001, and during her time here made many lasting connections to the Olympia community. While attending the Evergreen State College, she produced and directed a documentary titled “Watch,” about the campaign that united environmental activists and rural timber workers, in Randle, WA.

The government alleged Briana served as a lookout and acquired a car that the government claims was used for the arson. There was no physical evidence linking her to the arson. The case rested on the testimony of two women, Lacey Phillabaum and Jennifer Kolar, who agreed to cooperate fully in exchange for drastically reduced sentences of three to seven years, rather than 35 to life. On March 6, after four-and-a-half days of deliberation, the jury returned a verdict of guilty on the two arson charges, but deadlocked on the other three charges.

The twisted legal travesty began when the government indicted Briana in Tacoma rather than Seattle in order to have the indictment in front of Judge Burgess. The Defense’s objections to numerous rule violations fell on deaf ears; every Defense motion was denied, except one the prosecution didn’t object to.

In one motion the Defense stated: “In the course of suppressing critical exculpatory evidence, and the cover-up of the suppression, the prosecution has prepared at least two false Reports of Interviews (FBI form 302), has fraudulently represented the false reports to be authentic, has engaged in numerous dishonest efforts to conceal the fraud, has filed two perjurious sworn Declarations, has written at least one dishonest letter to defense counsel, and has filed at least one false pleading. This misconduct constitutes the federal crimes of perjury and obstruction of justice, and has subverted Ms. Waters’ constitutional right to counsel, to due process of law, and to a fair trial. We recognize that these are very serious claims, but the proof of the claims is documented and it is manifest.”

When the trial began on Feb. 11, dozens of supporters were in the courtroom to offer moral support and take notes, which continued throughout (<http://portland.indymedia.org/en/topic/greenscare/>).

The prosecution’s case opened with character assassination and an elaborate storyline that connected the University of Washington arson with a series of other arsons around the Pacific Northwest. Prosecutor Friedman wrapped up by reading a quote from an article on the ELF about the need to “...pick the best target, the best tactics. Think big: Wall Street, the Statue of Liberty, Disneyland, (etc.)” This epitomized the tone of the opening statement; it was hard to keep track of how many times he used the words “ecoterrorism“ and “terrorist.”

In the Defense’s opening statement, attorney Bob Bloom effectively called the government on their blatant fear-mongering and remind-

ed the jury this was a trial that needed to be based on evidence beyond a reasonable doubt. He emphasized the defense’s case: Briana Waters *was not there*. She was *not* involved and that as much as the prosecution could try to spin the facts to their advantage, it was the jury’s job to look at things through the filter of reason.

The prosecution began their case with the testimony of Federal Agent John Comery from the BATF. He went into detail about nearly every ELF arson from 1996–2001 EXCEPT the UW arson. Observers got a chance to see many grainy photographs of various devices and buildings (often with four or five shots of each from different angles), maps and diagrams showing the layout of the different sites and the distribution of the incendiary devices, and the resulting damage. We also learned how each device was labeled, i.e. 3A, 3B, etc., and saw close-up photos of many small charred bits of plastic and metal. This was to be a format the prosecution would revert to again and again throughout the trial, seemingly to bore the jury into submission.

The prosecution called expert witnesses from various federal agencies to testify that the accelerant/timer combination constituted a “destructive device.” The language of the law is meant to apply to “explosive,

Inadvertently bolstering Briana’s account, the government had introduced testimony that while a fingerprint of Briana’s was found on the outside of the folder, not a single print of hers was found on any of the 90 papers inside.

incendiary or poison gas bombs, missiles, landmines, and other similar devices.” There were no convictions on these charges, which had been used to pressure many Green Scare defendants to talk or face a life sentence.

Then came the testimony of Lacey Phillabaum, who pled guilty on Oct. 4, 2006, to participating in the CUH arson.

She came across as very pitiful and conflicted, and went into detail about how she got involved in Earth First!, the buildup of her activism through the WTO, how she met various people, and eventually escalating her activism through the formation of the “Book Club.” On direct examination by the prosecutor, she barely skipped a beat, answering wide-ranging questions about exactly who attended which Book Club meetings, and went on to describe in detail what she “remembered” about the events leading up to the arson. She also included specific details of the action itself that were later contradicted by Kolar’s testimony: stashing duffel bags filled with the fuel and devices behind a dumpster near the CUH, and sideswiping a parked car as they left the scene.

On cross-examination, Phillabaum was cagey and evasive. She was hard to pin down, using semantics and debating techniques to avoid answering questions. She had a conveniently selective memory. She was confronted about having sex with Justin Solondz, Briana’s boyfriend at the time. She claimed she had no memory of Briana confronting her about this until pressed by Attorney Bloom.

The prosecution called Robert Corrina, Briana’s cousin who lives in Olympia. He recounted that Briana had asked him and his wife to rent a car for her, and after his

initial apprehension, he agreed.

During cross-examination, Mr. Bloom destroyed Corrina’s credibility, showing holes in his testimony. He had lied when first approached by federal agents at his home, telling them he didn’t recognize a photo of Briana. He later lied to the grand jury about renting a car. This was all after Briana had called him (and other relatives) telling them that there were accusations against her, that they weren’t true, and that if they were approached by anyone to “tell the truth.” It was revealed that Friedman and FBI Agent Ted Halla approached Corrina’s wife at work and threatened her, raising their voices and suggesting that the grand jury might indict them for perjury. Corrina’s testimony was scripted, his memory erratic, and he seemed unable to answer the simplest questions.

On Feb. 20, the government put on Jennifer Kolar, who confessed to her involvement in four different actions including the CUH. Much like Phillabaum’s, her testimony went into extraordinary detail, from the Book Club meetings to who knew who and where they had met, to how they communicated. She described the events of the arson at the CUH, contradicting Phillabaum on a number of details. In fact, she had no memory of Phillabaum ever being there!

One piece of evidence the prosecution focused on was a manila folder Kolar said Briana gave her containing various articles. Prosecutor Mark Bartlett went through the articles one by one, and had Kolar read aloud to the jury the most inflammatory sections, which he had highlighted. Kolar maintained that she had never read these articles, but “believed” that they were the ones Briana had given her, because she had simply put them away in a crate. Included in this crate was a bunch of PGP disks, passwords, her old laptop and PDAs, and other documents. She turned this crate over to the feds, leading many people to wonder why she saved all these sensitive materials... except possibly as an insurance policy in the event she was ever busted.

Under cross-examination by attorney Neil Fox, Kolar denied that there was any kind of car accident when they drove away from the fire. Fox also went over the details of her first interview with the government on Dec. 16, 2005, when she recounted the people at the CUH arson as herself, Avalon, “Capitol Hill Girl, Capitol Hill Girl’s punk rock boyfriend and Crazy Dan.” Even though one of the FBI agents recorded this information in handwritten notes, he and his fellow agent altered Kolar’s account to state that she participated in the arson with Avalon and “others.”

Briana’s lawyers called one of the FBI agents, Anthony Torres, to show the extent the government altered reports to fit their conclusions. The government also refused to obtain the actual recording that Kolar made of one of her interviews, where she pointedly did not name Briana when discussing the identities of her accomplices.

The Defense called a series of witnesses who know Briana personally, and who testified to her good character and peaceful nature. One witness recalled a two-day meeting near Portland where Lacey met Briana, showing that Lacey had lied that the first time she met Briana was a week before the arson at a Denny’s in Olympia, a point she

had made a big deal of remembering clearly in her testimony.

Briana herself took the stand, showing that she had nothing to hide. Briana testified that she hadn’t ever read the articles the government claimed she had given Kolar. (Inadvertently bolstering Briana’s account, the government had introduced testimony that while a fingerprint of Briana’s was found on the outside of the folder, not a single print of hers was found on any of the 90 papers inside.)

The jury began deliberating on Friday, Feb. 29. Three days later a massive arson occurred in the Seattle suburb of Woodinville. Three luxury homes in a rural area were torched. As the jurors drove to the courthouse, (they weren’t sequestered) it was the top story on every media outlet, with immediate claims of “ecoterrorism” and questions about the timing coinciding with Briana’s trial. That morning brought intense argument by the Defense who wanted to know if the jury had heard any news reports of the fire. The judge instead asked the jurors if they felt they could disregard anything they might have heard and continue to follow jury instructions. When none of them spoke up, they were sent back to continue deliberating. The timing of the arson could only have hurt Briana’s chances for acquittal.

In the end, the jury came back with a guilty verdict on the two arson counts. In a shocking move, the judge agreed with the prosecutor that Briana should be detained for the three months until her sentencing on May 30. An emergency detention appeal has been sent to the Ninth Circuit.

People interested in helping Briana can go to her website, www.supportbriana.org, or follow the progress through Indymedia. There is currently a call for letters to Judge Burgess asking that she be sentenced to the minimum time possible.

When the government extends its war to our own community, it is crucial to stand up and support targets of repression. This case has seen a loving mother and caring friend convicted of crimes she took no part in, a case based on lies and manipulations of evidence by the government. While this should come as no surprise, in this case the fight for justice is not over.

Briana Waters’ address in prison is:

Briana Waters
36432-086
FDC-Seatac
Federal Detention Center
P.O. Box 13900
Seattle, WA 98198

Sadie’s Heron

by Craig Oare

*The noble bird is framed in my sight,
waiting for the camera to take him.
Sadie, caged Earth Tribe warrior,
looking at these pictures in the mail,
staring out her window at the sky.*

*Now I’ve got some fleeting forest light,
and heron glides serenely on his way
after consenting to our collaboration.
Sadie sleeping in her federal cell,
Dreaming every night of wings and flight.*



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Legendary civil rights leader brings teachings to Olympia

by Nicholas Pace

Civil rights leader James M. Lawson, Jr. will visit the Olympia community on May 2–5. Professor, Methodist minister, civil rights leader, sit-in organizer and advisor to World Council of Churches, James Lawson has accomplished a great deal in his 80 years. Involved with the civil rights movement since its beginnings in the fifties, Lawson’s close friend Dr. Martin Luther Jr. once called him the “...the leading nonviolence theorist in the world.” Currently he is a professor of Vanderbilt University, and is now 80. Although you may not have read about him in your high school history book, this man definitely deserves a listen.

Lawson was involved in the Memphis Sanitation Strike when he served as a strategy coordinator for the Sanitation Strike Committee, which came into conflict with Mayor Henry Loeb. The strike occurred after two sanitation workers were killed in an accident on a city truck. When the strike occurred, Loeb denounced the strike, claiming it to be illegal. This would create split views between the city government and the NAACP. Lawson invited Dr. King to Memphis to support the strike. Hostilities arose in response to the boycotts set up by the strikers, and hundreds were arrested, and some even killed. It was in Memphis during the days of the strike that Dr. King was assassinated by James Earl Ray on April 4. Soon after, the strike ended and compro-

mises were made on April 16.

Born in Sept. 22, 1928, Lawson grew up with a very social background as one of nine children in an integrated neighborhood in Massillon, Ohio. An active youth, he engaged in debate, band, drama, and

United States.

Lawson returned to the U.S. where he enrolled at Oberlin College graduate school of theology in Ohio. It is here that he met Dr. King, during the beginnings of King’s major social movement with the Montgomery Bus

Boycott. King invited Lawson into his movement, since both of them were heavily influenced by

Born in 1928, Lawson grew up with a very social background as one of nine children in an integrated neighborhood in Massillon Ohio.

his father’s church and national Methodist youth organization. He attended Baldwin-Wallace College, in Berea, Ohio, where he studied the works of social equality philosophers and pioneers such as Gandhi and Tolstoy. Although it was rare in those days, Lawson was elected president of his majority white freshman class.

In 1951, during the Korean War, Lawson refused to report for the draft, which cost him both his education and ministerial deferments, and placed him in prison for fourteen months. He was able to continue his studies on non-violent activism set by Gandhi when he was paroled for the Methodist mission in India. From there he went to Nagpur, India as coach and minister to student Christian movements out of Hislop College in Nagpur. He gained a new perspective on the world through learning Gandhi’s methods of Satyagraha, and continued to practice the teachings in the

Gandhi and his principles of non-violence. Lawson became an education coordinator for his movement. Lawson moved down to Nashville, Tennessee in 1960, and enrolled in Vanderbilt University Divinity School. Once again Lawson came into conflict with the authorities when he was expelled for leading mass student demonstrations with his creation of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

Although some people have considered the sit-ins as passive methods of bringing social justice, Lawson’s opinion differed, when he stated in an interview in an article of the Southern Patriot, a North Carolina magazine: “Many people call the passivity of Negro ‘non-violence.’ But nothing could be further from the truth. As the sit-ins demonstrate, genuine non-violence is active and dynamic.” The method Lawson used in the sit-in was based on the training he received in India.

Lawson also kept in contact with India by becoming an Advisor to World Council of Churches assembly at New Delhi, in 1961. In 1962, he continued to work in Tennessee as a pastor of Centenary Methodist Church, and was chairman of a War on Poverty advisory committee. During the days of the Vietnam War, Lawson visited South Vietnam with the international and interfaith team, also becoming involved with the Vietnamese Buddhist pacifist movement and a world tour by Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh.

Lawson later moved to Los Angeles to lead the Holman United Methodist Church, which he continued to do for the next 25 years. He still works to challenge current agendas and contribute to causes such as immigrants’ rights in the U.S., the rights of Palestinians, and has spoken against most of the wars declared by the U.S. such as the Cold War, Vietnam, and the current war on Iraq. He constantly challenges racism in the nation and is a strong believer in workers’ rights. In the current decade Lawson received the Community of Christ International Peace Award, and in 2006 he received an apology from Vanderbilt for the unfair treatment he received there due to his civil rights activism.

On Monday May 5, Professor Lawson will talk at the Evergreen State College in Lecture Hall 1 from 12-4 p.m. He will talk to the Olympia community at the Temple Beth Hatfiloh from 7-9 PM.

POWER boosts funds, hosts Mother’s Day picnic

by Monica Peabody

It’s been one year since the members and staff of WROC, Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition, separated from the board to continue WROC’s important work under a new name. If you missed that article, see June 2007 *Works in Progress* (WIP) at their website, www.olywip.org. Although the split was painful at the time, members and staff spent the year intentionally developing an organization through a consensus, member-led process, all the while continuing the important work of guiding people to expect and demand their welfare rights, improving people’s understanding of poverty, and working toward improved economic policies. In WIP’s October 2007 issue, we updated you that our new name was POWER, Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights.

POWER now has a website and a MySpace page, www.oly-wa.us/power and www.myspace.com/parentsoorganizing, where you can find our values, mission, meetings, and participate in an online forum, sign up for email updates at welfarerights@riseup.net. An amazing temporary board has guided this work and continues to meet on the first Saturday of every month to continue building a strong organization whose decisions rest in the active membership. Join us. Our upcoming work will include goals setting, electing a permanent board, and applying for nonprofit status. Currently we have state nonprofit status and a federal fiscal sponsor, Olympia’s International Trauma Treatment Program.

We have continued taking calls from parents throughout Washington and providing information about their legal rights. Sadly, WROC in Seattle seems to no longer be functioning, as their voice mailbox has been full for several weeks now. We are doing our best to get the word out about POWER so people can continue to have access to this important service. Volunteers and interns continue to do weekly outreach Tuesday mornings at the Olympia welfare office, bringing donated pastries from San Francisco Street bakery and coffee from Olympia Coffee Roasting Company to improve people’s long waits while providing them with information. Join us. We meet at 8:30 at POWER office at 701 Franklin Street, in the Payne Room of the First Christian Church.

We brought many POWER members to meet with their legislators this session, more still to write and call. After fifteen years of asking, we were shocked and pleased this session when legislators passed a 3% TANF grant increase! Parents will begin receiving it this summer. We also won a sales tax refund for low-income work-

for next year at a picnic in Sylvester Park on Monday, May 5th at 5:30. If it’s not picnicking weather, we’ll move to the First United Methodist Church on Legion and Boundary. Join us. Bring a dish to share; children are always welcome.

POWER would not be thriving today without the support of our amazing community. Thank you to all who provided encouragement, volunteered, wrote checks, organized and attended fundraisers, and kept us supported through the difficult transition. Thank you to the Center for Community Based Learning and Action at Evergreen, RESIST, the City of Olympia, and the Olympia Food Cooperative, for believing in and funding social jus-

We are doing our best to get the word out about POWER so people can continue to have access to this important service.

ers, which will begin in 2009. Food stamp eligibility was increased to help more working families. We will be celebrating these successes and talking about what we want

tice work. Thank you to the First Christian Church for continuing to provide us free office space for ten years. We look forward to another ten years of organizing low-income parents to speak out against injustice and work for world in which children and caregivers are truly valued, and the devastation of poverty has been eradicated.

Contact POWER at 360-352-9716 if you would like to get involved or if you would like us to send one of our beautiful Mothers Day cards to a mother of your choice. Cards include local artwork and the original Mother’s Day Manifesto, by Julia Ward Howe.



Beloved peace activist Riad Elsolh Hamad, dead at 55

ANOTHER VICTIM OF THE "WAR ON TERROR"

by Daisy Ouye and D K Ouye

Long-time peace activist Riad Hamad , who chaired an organization called Palestinian Children's Welfare Fund (PCWF) that has raised millions of dollars for Palestinian children, was found dead just before 2 p.m. on April 16. His family reported him as a missing person when he didn't return from a trip to a local pharmacy two days prior, telling police he was suicidal.

I spoke with Paul Larudee , a close friend to Riad, by phone. Paul was recently in Olympia as co-founder of the Free Gaza Movement and replaced Riad as chair of PCWF just before he died. He explained that Riad was methodical in turning over the bank account password, storage unit combination, and responsibilities. He said that those closest to Riad were also "worried for his state of mind in

general" and that he was under tremendous pressure due to years of harassment from authorities.

Mr. Hamad was a Lebanese-American who immigrated in the 1970's. He had multiple masters degrees and was a middle school teacher. Riad sponsored two families in Palestine who had no means of income. He raised funds for medicine and books and ran the PCWF, which collects donations and sells Palestinian arts and crafts to help the children of Palestinian refugee camps, children who have been displaced by Israeli occupation.

In a statement released through their lawyer, his family described him as "admired by many members of the local, as well as international community." He was beloved for his kindness, generosity, dedication and sense of humor. He was also an outspoken critic of the Bush administration.

Hamad was put under FBI surveillance in 2003, when a shipment of several boxes

of books and used clothing that he tried to send to Israel for a group inclusive of Palestinian and Israeli children, was rejected. In a video on Free Speech TV, he opened some of the boxes that weren't already opened and searched by the government. He joked, "You found me out, here's your weapons of mass destruction, you got me," as he revealed the books and clothes.

The pressure on this tireless peace activist increased with years of constant interference in the operation of the charitable organization he ran from his home. His neighbors and co-workers were questioned

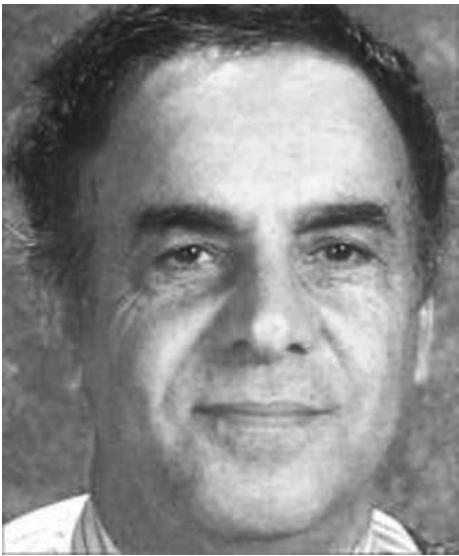
and asked to spy on him, which none would agree to. The implications of the FBI surveillance suggest they were trying to connect him to a terrorist group. Riad's family was interrogated and watched, his home was raided by the FBI, and packages he sent were opened.

When asked why he continued, he said, "This is about basic civil rights. No child should go hungry." Always clear on spending, with donors listed on the PCWF web site, Riad called himself "an open book."

Still, on Feb. 27 the FBI again raided his home, confiscating 40 boxes of tax related paperwork, other documents, books, flags, CD, etc. Special agents said they had probable cause for money laundering, wire fraud, and bank fraud.

"There's actually a very low threshold for judges to grant warrants and perform seizures," Larudee explained.

According to the Progressive Independent Forum, the search warrant was issued by Robert Pittman, "known for hostility to Arabs and Palestinians [and] with whom Riad had previous experience." Larudee explained that they also seized Riad's passport, froze his bank account and were asking for documents dating back fifteen years. He said Riad did not expect fair play



from them and referred to Sami al-Arian, Palestinian professor and also an outspoken activist.

Sami Al-Arian was arrested in Feb. 2003 for an alleged connection to terrorism, based on secret evidence. He took a plea bargain and has been held a year past his release date. He was in the 34th week of a hunger strike to protest his unjust imprisonment when Riad died.

When asked why he continued, he said, "This is about basic civil rights. No child should go hungry."

Larudee told me that Riad had said repeatedly "I'm not worried about what happens to me, but I worry for my family's future." Hopelessness about the future is an even stronger predictor than depression in those who might take their own lives.

There has been a great deal of speculation about the circumstances surrounding Riad's death because of the condition of his body when he was found. He was found in Lady Bird Lake, near his home in Austin,

Texas, bound. His car was parked nearby. The police statement said the placement of the bindings were "consistent with Hamad having done this to himself." This matter-of-fact explanation of such an awful scene has been difficult for his friends and supporters to accept. An autopsy could take several weeks.

After talking with Larudee, a beloved and tireless activist himself, we are convinced that Riad took his own life. He explained to me that he felt Riad may have chosen this method to draw scrutiny and suspicion to a situation that warrants it. When we called Larudee, it was to discuss Texas state law and to ensure the police had followed procedure. He assured us the police had treated his case as a homicide and that it was, indeed, the family who urged them to believe Riad was at high-risk for suicide because of his intensely affective state with the FBI raid just over a month before.

Media reports included statements in which the police referred to "stressors" in Riad's life. Since most of the authorities of government were the stressors, their reports meant little.

"Mr. Hamada's family and friends are obviously devastated over their loss" a statement from the family reads.

The current administration has targeted several charitable organizations benefiting Palestinian children: Kinder USA, Middle East Children Alliance, Holy Land Foundation and PCWF. It has been costly, disruptive and there have been no convictions for any crime.

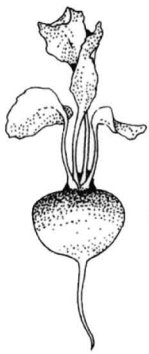
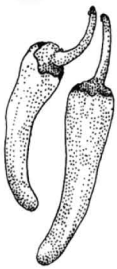
With the future of PCWF in Larudee's hands now, we asked him if he feared government interference. He replied with a deep breath that sounded like conviction,

"We are prepared. We will build on their experience. We are keeping very careful records and have two very good lawyers."

Rest in peace, Riad.
"We won't stop."

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MAY 1: EYEWITNESS REPORT OF MAY DAY MÊLÉE

Just before Works in Progress went to press, we were given the following account of the events that followed the downtown Olympia May Day rally.

Most people know what to expect from May Day in Olympia. Music, dancing, marching (usually without a permit). Food Not Bombs serving from a big tub of soup. A festival, both to celebrate Beltane, and in honor of those who died so we could have a weekend, overtime pay, and an end to child labor. In recent years, this has been complemented with May Day’s additional focus as an immigrant rights day, and with it a focus on multilingualism and the ongoing ICE raids.

All went as expected for most of the day. Indeed, there was music. There was dancing. There was marching (with a legal permit, this year). There were invited speakers, talking about things ranging from the Longshore work stoppage, to the proposal before the Olympia City Council to establish Olympia as a Sanctuary City for war resisters and immigrants.

At about 2 pm, the crowd marched from Sylvester Park to the Capitol Building, with police never far behind. The exorbitant number of State Troopers at the Capitol Building, however, couldn’t stop a few individuals from tagging the interior walls with anarchist graffiti.

The vandalism was an immediate source of contention within the group. Open and at times heated debates were held, right there in the State Capitol Building, in front of State Troopers and bystanders. Some defended the actions of the vandals, pointing out that the desecration of government property in no way compares to the violence

carried out by that government domestically and abroad. Others, on the other hand, suggested the behavior turns people away, and cited it as the reason the immigrant community no longer comes to May Day in Olympia.

The march continued, first to City Hall, and then down 4th Ave. Upon reaching US Bank at 4th and Capitol, a contingent of marchers began hurling rocks at the unsuspecting bank. Two windows were broken, despite the lone security guard’s fervent attempts at shouting down the crowd. Since the action was totally unexpected by every-

[The police] strategy was not to find the people actually throwing the rocks...Their strategy was apparently to grab anyone who looked (to them) like they could have thrown rocks....

one around, the march simply continued along its planned route, and none of the rock throwers were identified.

The march turned down 5th Avenue, which runs between Heritage Bank and Bank of America. Once again, people from somewhere in the crowd threw rocks toward Bank of America. This time, several bank windows were broken.

By now, Olympia police had mobilized, and soon after the window smashing at Bank of America, several cops swarmed in. But their strategy was not to find the people actually throwing the rocks; They had arrived a moment too late to do that. Hence, their strategy was apparently to grab anyone who looked (to them) like they could have thrown rocks, or more precise-

ly, anyone they could pin this vandalism on. People were singled out of the crowd, dragged into the street and arrested. Not even staying on the sidewalk kept people safe. Cops on bikes swarmed around the crowd, nearly running people right over. Undercover police emerged, pointing their pistols at unarmed protesters. In the end, three people were arrested.

As the remaining crowd made its way to the Olympia police station to await the release of the arrestees, the *Olympian* was hard at work using the riot to further its own agenda. An online article posted at 4:30 pm on the *Olympian* website made a point to connect the rock-throwing with some of the guest speakers invited by march organizers—specifically, the guest speakers asking people to attend the next City Council meeting to persuade city government to adopt the Sanctuary City proposal. Witnesses report seeing an *Olympian* reporter asking several people

outside OPD headquarters if they thought the “violence” at the banks would reflect badly on the Sanctuary City proposal. The *Olympian* also characterized the march as “disrupting traffic,” even though organizers had actually gone through the system this year to acquire a legal permit.

This should not be surprising, as the *Olympian* is routinely nothing more than an unpaid P.R. firm for OPD. Solicitations for information involving the Valentines Day riot at Evergreen are routinely placed on the front page, despite their insurmountable bias and non-existent news value.

People will undoubtedly be talking about this May Day riot for years to come, both in our peace and justice community, and in the Olympia community at large. Much of

the discussion in the greater community will, sadly, be mediated by the *Olympian*, at the expense of those who would stand up to imperialism, coporatism, and police brutality.

Indeed, there is no justification in comparing the violence perpetrated by these outposts of imperialism and capitalism, both domestically and globally, and a few smashed windows. Nor is the smashing of windows (i.e., attacks on corporate property) a justification for police to attack innocent bystanders (to speak nothing of their failure to bring Bank of America to justice for its crimes).

But does any of this mean smashing windows at a May Day protest is strategically sound? Asking 20 different people from the local anti-imperialist community will get you 20 different answers. Some will rightly point out that tactics need to be escalated if we are to do more than spin our wheels endlessly, while others will point out that needing to do something does not mean that all action is wise. Some will point to the bad press this will undoubtedly bring on all our efforts in the fight for social justice as evidence that May Day 2008 was a fiasco, while others will point out that anybody who is swayed against our cause by seeing people fight back was never bound to be on our side in the first place. Some will see this as an outburst of privileged people unappreciative of the danger they bring on those around them, while others will see this as anti-imperialism stripped of its white middle-class comfort zone. And finally, people will ask, “Was it worth it?”

Perhaps, some day, we will as a community decide on an answer.

Thurston–Santo Tomás Sister County Association welcomes its 9th Community Delegation from Santo Tomás, Nicaragua, April 23–May 13, 2008

Olympia’s sister city relationship with Santo Tomás, Chontales, Nicaragua, has its roots in the era of the Contra War in the 1980s. It strives to engender peace and heal the effects of US aggression and economic oppression through people-to-people exchanges and community development.

The Thurston–Santo Tomás Sister County Association collaborates with the Committee for Community Development (CDC) in Santo Tomás to help sustain multiple community projects: its intent is to support self-determination and self-sufficiency for the Nicaraguan people. Over the years there have been many delegations between our two communities: working, living, and sharing experience across distances of geography, language, and culture. This is a two-way relationship grounded in citizen diplomacy.

This year four delegates from Santo Tomás will live with local families, work with community projects in their areas of

interest and expertise, and make several public appearances.

Please come welcome these four sister county delegates from Nicaragua at our four public events! (see page 2 for descriptions of these events)

Griselda Escobar is the principal of Rubén Darío Elementary School. She is an advocate for children and will be working with Lincoln Elementary, Rubén Darío’s sister school of nine years. Griselda anticipates exchanges of ideas and teaching methodologies with her counterparts at Lincoln. She is excited about meeting the Lincoln students, staff and families. She is the fourth teacher to visit from Santo Tomás; there have been four teachers from Lincoln to spend time at their sister school in Nicaragua.

Gladys Prieto is a retired nurse and health care administrator. She has served in many capacities with the CDC, and currently is the Coordinator of the Economic

Project, working with small farmers and producers through a micro-credit lending project. She is also a member of the Water Commission in Santo Tomás, which seeks resolution to critical shortages of water (potable or otherwise) every year. She is eager to meet with the Washington State Organic Certification Program and to learn about more micro-credit structures and opportunities.

Bernys Ramos is Treasurer on the Board of Directors of the CDC in Santo Tomás. He is an accomplished DJ and owns his own business, as well as being a Literacy Program Coordinator in the new national campaign to eradicate illiteracy. He says that he had no idea that there are literacy programs in the US; he looks forward to connecting with Proyecto CIELO in Olympia and Mason County Literacy in Shelton. He is also interested in activist youth movements in the US.

Wilfredo Espinoza is a university profes-

sor in language, literature and history, a farmworker who sought education as a means for creating change. He is a published author and poet and will be doing a reading of his work while in Olympia (May 5th) as well as connecting with at-risk youth, one of his many interests. He identifies himself as a staunch defender of nature and is committed to supporting young people in accessing information about their culture, to foster a connection with themselves and their roots.



Griselda Escobar of the Ninth Community Delegation from Santo Tomás with Maribeth Wheeler and students from Lincoln Elementary at the 2008 Procession of the Species in downtown Olympia. Photo by Diane Dakin.

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